



# IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ALICE

*Knowing Christ*

*Living Christ*

*Sharing Christ*

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## Glad Tidings – July 2022

### Fellow Christians,

Do you believe in coincidences? I used to but now I believe in God Whispers, and what are God Whispers? “When God whispers, his words are personal and private. They are his message to you, before they become a message to others.” That’s what I think has been happening to me.

The last few messages from my Women’s Bible Study meetings have been about prayer, serving our fellow man and kindness, in fact last night’s theme was “Kindness: Kind and Compassionate to One Another.” This week’s Bible class study is about serving others and being kind. We’ve studied going to God in prayer daily. A couple of weeks ago, I was reading some articles and this one really spoke to me, so I saved it to use in the future. Well, the future is now. I think God is trying to tell me something.....so I’m sharing this article with you.

### God Plans for The Unexpected and Inconvenient

By Sermon Central on Jun 2, 2022  
SermonCentral.com

**Scripture:** Luke 11:2-4, Luke 11:5-8, John 15:5, Luke 11:9-13

When Luke recorded his version of the Lord’s Prayer (Luke 11:2–4), he included Jesus expounding on this prayer through an odd parable that would have made his original hearers cringe: “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs.” (Luke 11:5–8)

What’s odd is that a story about a socially humiliating situation and a reluctant, irritated benefactor is supposed to encourage us to pray. What does Jesus want us to see in this kind of need and this kind of provider?

## 1. Expect Unexpected Needs

The first thing to see is that the protagonist's guest was *unexpected*. Jesus's original hearers would have implicitly understood this.

God plans unexpected needs to arise at inconvenient times in our lives to invite us to trust and depend on him.

In first century near-Eastern cultures, having no food to offer a guest was deeply shameful. Note that this man would rather wake his sleeping friend's entire family in the middle of the night than fail to provide food for his unexpected guest. Both situations (no food and sleeping friend) would have been deeply embarrassing and he would have avoided them if at all foreseen.

**Lesson One: Jesus wants us to expect unexpected needs and respond to them.**

## 2. Prepare Yourself for Inconvenience

A second thing to see is that the protagonist's unexpected guest arrives at *midnight*. Of course, it would *have* to be midnight.

Most of us today would consider midnight an inconvenient time to meet an unexpected need. Back then it was a *really* inconvenient time. We could assume our protagonist also had a family who also had their sleep interrupted. It's not hard to imagine the crankiness and culturally equivalent grumbling whispers of "Are you serious?" when suddenly forced to entertain an unexpected midnight guest — especially when there's no food to offer them. With no 24-hour convenience stores, and no phones to discreetly call for help, the man is required to trudge over to a friend's house in the dead of night and wake an entire family to ask for three small loaves of bread.

**Lesson Two: Jesus wants us to expect to respond to unexpected needs at very inconvenient times.**

## 3. Admit Your Insufficiency

A third thing to notice is what the protagonist says to his sleepy friend: "Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and *I have nothing* to set before him."

"I have nothing." These are powerful words about impotence. The man in the parable found himself suddenly called on to respond to a need he lacked the resources to meet, and this forced him to beg provision from someone who had the resources. If we never realize we have nothing to offer on our own, we'll never ask God to give us what others need.

Remember, this is a parable about prayer, not hospitality. In the man's words, "I have nothing," Jesus means for us to see our condition before God. Does this not describe our frequent sense of desperation in the face of someone else's need? I feel this daily as a husband, father, friend, pastor, writer — as a Christian. I don't have resident in me the resources to meet the needs around me. Our lack tempts us to avoid others' needs rather than expose our insufficiency.

But Jesus not only knows our impoverished condition; he designed it. He's the Vine; we're the branches. "Apart from [him we] can do nothing" (John 15:5). He wants us to feel keenly that we have nothing to offer on our own because this desperation moves us to ask God for what we need. That's why immediately after telling this parable, Jesus says, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9).

**Lesson Three: Jesus wants our inability to meet unexpected, inconvenient needs to drive us to plead with God to supply the resources we need to serve others.**

#### **4. Remember God Is Eager to Help**

A fourth thing to notice is the sleepy friend's *reluctance* to help his desperate friend. This is what really makes the parable odd. The sleepy friend doesn't want to be bothered. This forces the already inconvenienced and humiliated protagonist to become impudent (stubbornly persistent) in begging for help.

Why did Jesus use a reluctant friend to encourage us in prayer? We can see his reason in a similar point he made a few sentences later:

"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13)

Jesus's point here is that our heavenly Father is more inclined to give us good gifts than we evil fathers are inclined to give our children good gifts. Similarly, the friend's reluctance in the parable is not a *reflection* of our heavenly Father; he is a *contrast* to our heavenly Father. If a selfish, inconvenience-avoiding friend can be moved by "impudence" to meet his friend's need, how much more will our eager, generous heavenly Father be moved by our persistent prayers! If God delays in answering our prayers, it is not due to reluctance on his part.

**Lesson Four: Jesus wants us to respond to unexpected, inconvenient needs we cannot meet, with persistent prayer, remembering our Father's eagerness to provide for us.**

#### **Will You Accept the Invitation?**

Few things make people feel more loved than a willingness to joyfully sacrifice for inconvenient needs.

This odd parable about prayer is a wonderful gift. Jesus is reassuring us that unexpected needs, arising at the most inconvenient times, which are beyond our ability to meet, and so press us to plead with God for provision, are part of the normal Christian life. They are, in fact, God's design. Few things have the power to make people feel more loved than our willingness to joyfully sacrifice to make them a priority. And few things honor God more than our willingness to really trust him to provide for our needs. The two forces combine when we face unexpected, inconvenient, overwhelming needs. They are opportunities to sacrificially love like Jesus and radically trust in Jesus at the same time.

So, will YOU accept the invitation?

In Christ,

*Amy B. Koenning*

Amy B. Koenning, Council President

(Sermon Central website: [SermonCentral.com](http://SermonCentral.com))

**KNOWING CHRIST, LIVING CHRIST, and SHARING CHRIST!**



# Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt  
Director of Mission Growth



## Time to Gather, Celebrate, and Pray

*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” – Hebrews 10:24-25*

Each summer hundreds of members from Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ come together from across Texas for what we call our Annual Gathering. In a few short weeks on July 29-30, we will once again gather in Victoria to celebrate and pray for our mission, and you are invited to join us! Our theme this year is PRAY EARNESTLY based on Matthew 9:38: *“Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”* Our objective is always to equip and encourage one another in mission for Christ. This year we are focusing on how to faithfully respond to our Lord’s invitation in our theme verse by praying with a missional mindset, discipling and equipping leaders, and working in the harvest.

We are blessed to welcome keynote speakers Jeremy Walloch, Lead Pastor of Olivet Lutheran Church in La Crosse, Wisconsin and LCMC’s Service Coordinator Mike Bradley from Gilbert, Arizona. We will be led in worship by our two Victoria host congregations, Our Saviour’s and First English, and receive messages from preachers Lalahery Andriamihaja, Senior Pastor of Our Saviour’s and Julie Smith, LCMC’s Coordinator for Districts and Fellowships from Springfield, Minnesota.

One of the highlights for participants is choosing three of fifteen breakouts to attend. Each attendee can explore areas of particular interest in a smaller group setting with various presenters. Several ministry partners will also be represented and have tables with displays, including Harvest Workers, American Church Group of Texas, Hebrews 10:24, Spiritual Orphans Network, Lutheran Asian Ministries, Lutherans for Life, and more!

And I am so grateful that students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade through high school graduates are also invited to attend our Youth Gathering and Lock-In that takes place concurrently. A team of dedicated leaders is planning a fun and impactful weekend that will surely be a blessing to students.

It is my earnest prayer that you will seriously consider this invitation to come and join in this Annual Gathering of church members like you and that your life of faith can be enriched, and that the Gospel message may work in and through you to accomplish God’s will in the world.

To learn more and register, visit the Annual Gathering event page at [www.lcmctexas.org/annual-gathering](http://www.lcmctexas.org/annual-gathering).

*Pastor Bryce Formwalt*

Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for LCMC Texas District and Program Director of Harvest Workers, an online ministry training program (learn more at [www.harvestworkers.net](http://www.harvestworkers.net)). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Feel free to contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 ext. 2 or [bryce@lcmctexas.org](mailto:bryce@lcmctexas.org). © 2022 Bryce J. Formwalt, All Rights Reserved. Reprinted with permission. July 2022

**ALTAR GUILD - Given to the glory of God . . .**

**ALTAR & ETERNAL CANDLES:**

**July – Open**

**COMMUNION ELEMENTS:**

**July 3** – Given by Ruben & Cristina R. Soliz, in honor of their daughter, Araceli Soliz’s, birthday.

**July 17 – Open**

**July 31** – Given by Amy Koenning, in honor of our Tech Team.

**ALTAR & STANDING VASE FLOWERS**

**July 3** – Given by Ruben & Cristina R. Soliz, in honor of their daughter, Araceli Soliz’s, birthday.

**July 10** – Given by Jimmie Shoup, to the honor of God.

**July 17** – Given by Evelyn Hutchinson & Inez Zulauf, in honor of Aya Hutchinson, and all others who celebrate a July birthday.

**July 24** – Given by Gracie Barrett, in memory of James Barrett’s birthday, July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**July 31 – Open**

<b><u>Birthdays</u></b> 07/04 Bruce Bowen 07/06 Sally Soliz 07/13 Noel Schuette 07/15 Jackelyn Pena	07/22 Bill Botard 07/22 Renee Brown-Baker 07/24 Caleb Gonzalez	07/24 Cristina Soliz 07/25 Linda Benson 07/29 Melissa Slaughter
<b><u>Baptism Birthdays</u></b> 07/12 Dennis Huff 07/15 Megan Calvez 07/17 Heidi Braucksieker 07/24 Gale Keen		
<b><u>Wedding Anniversaries</u></b> 07/11 Jason & Amy Calvez 07/12 Chuck & Karen Crawford 07/16 Bert & Laurie Buegeler 07/19 Allan & Jeraldine Schulte		

<p><b>Council Reports/Agenda</b>  <b><u>Always Due</u> 2nd Monday of</b>  <b>each month by 5:00PM</b></p>	<p><b>Newsletter Information</b>  <b><u>Always Due</u> 3rd Monday</b>  <b>of each month by 5:00PM</b></p>	<p><b><u>Church Council Mtg</u></b>  <b>July 17, 2022</b>  <b>12:00 pm Conference Rm</b></p>
<p>President: Amy Koenning  Vice-President: Brian Menking  Secretary: Brandi Kennemer</p>	<p>Christian Life: Open  Communications: Laurie Buegeler  Education: Open  Property &amp; Grounds: Bill Botard  Stewardship: Melba Andersen  Worship: Mary Jan Jenkins  Youth: Kandace Fox</p>	



*Prayer Requests*

**Prayers of the Church:**

Lord, we ask that you comfort and heal all who are suffering in body or spirit. Please send healing to our brothers and sisters: Cathy Richter, Evelyn Starr, Audrey Benson, George Greene, James Appleby, Rhonda Herschap, Robert Pena, Noel Schuette, the people of Ukraine, the people of Uvalde, Darlene Totten, Steve Maresch, Kasey Wallace, Dolly Kelley, John Martin, Victor – Liver Transplant, Brooke Simonik, Roy Allen Adcock, Barak Waters, Edsel and Alicia Renken, Robert “Bubba” Spears, Benito Rosales, Carol Stanley, MaryLee Crane, Celia Kaiser, Sean, Kandace, Kloe & Wiley Fox, and Jack Work.

Father, hold in your arms and comfort the families and friends of Doris Thieme, Bob Kaiser, and Randy Piland.

Comfort with the grace of your Holy Spirit all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow or mourning. And to all grant a measure of your love, taking them into your tender care.

O Lord God, look with mercy on all whose increasing years bring them isolation, distress, or weakness. Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; give them understanding helpers and the willingness to accept help; and, as their strength diminishes, increase their faith and their assurance of your love. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.



## ***Quilting Days***

The Quilting Ladies, otherwise known as, the “Sew and Sews,” are trying to start getting together again after a long break, known as “the Pandemic.” The group is getting back to doing what they like: making quilts and having some good old fashioned visiting. Only next time, we will make sure to contact the person in charge of turning on the a/c. Between all the sewing going on and the visiting, that Parish Hall got a little warm. This problem has been solved, though. We found out we just need to contact the man in control of the programing, aka, Brian Menking. Now, we just have to remember to call him. Haha!!

At our last get together, Jimmie Shoup, Leona Owens, Gracie Barrett, and Evelyn Hutchinson sewed and visited. They took a lunch break, then sewed some more. The quilts they are working on now, and the stack of completed quilts that had been collected, will be going to the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission in Corpus. We felt our quilts could provide someone in need, with the love and warmth we put into each one. The Ladies of Immanuel have been quilting for a long time. I’m not exactly sure when they started, but over the years, many quilts and memories have been made. Our quilts have been made for Lutheran World Relief, Bokenkamp Children’s Center in Corpus Christi, and for several lucky recipients of homes, built by Habitat for Humanity, right here in Alice, providing quilts for the children of the families who receive the home. Every year, we also honor our own Youth of Immanuel, who are graduating Seniors, with a quilt made especially for them. When these quilts are being put together, we reach out to get ideas of their likes and interests, or they give us something meaningful to them, and it is then incorporated into their very own unique quilt that will hopefully bring them many years of comfort and joy.

Over the years, we have had many talented and faithful ladies, who have attended and contributed to our quilting days. Many of them specialized in certain areas of the “building” process. Katherine Botard sewed many a top and bottom, that job has now become Mardella Laskowski’s job. Jean Menking always brought her faithful sewing

machine, and radio, and she would sew the binding around the quilts. Nelda Boerm and Nettie Cornelius would put the three layers together, while Irene Grisham, Leona Owens, Mardella Laskowski, Ruth Lindquist and too many others to name, would take care of the tacking. Through the years, we have had the pleasure of having friends drop in on our sessions, thinking they were just going to visit, but would up being put to work, helping out with the tacking.

Our quilts are all 60" x 80" and made from fabric donated over the years. We have found through much trial and error; cotton fabric is the best and most durable fabric to work with. Other supplies that are used to construct these quilts are needles, crochet thread, scissors, and lots of LOVE. If you or anyone else you know, may be interested in joining us, you can contact Mardella Laskowski at 361-664-7285.

For now, "Sew ya later!" and we hope to see some new smiling faces joining our group!!



## **SUMMER CAMP NOTICE**

The decision has been made to cancel Summer Day Camp 2022 due to the recent increase in COVID cases. The health and well-being of all camp participants is the basis of this decision agreed upon by both Cross Trails Ministry and Immanuel Lutheran Church of Alice. Families preregistered for Summer Camp 2022 will be contacted via phone notification. Please go by the Church office if you require a refund. Questions or concerns? Please call Amy Koenning at 361-215-5007. We are looking forward to Summer Day Camp 2023!! Join us!!

# July 2022

	July 3, 2022	July 10, 2022	July 17, 2022	July 24, 2022	July 31, 2022
<b>Assisting Minister</b> <b>Minister</b>	Susie Yocum <b>Mary Jackson</b>	Kloe Fox <b>Alicia Carlisle</b>	Amy Koenning <b>Mary Jackson</b>	Mallori Calvez <b>OPEN</b>	Mary Jackson <b>OPEN</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Mary Jackson Jerri Schulte		Amy Calvez Laurie Buegeler		Kloe Fox Mallori Calvez
<b>Ushers</b>	Cooper Kennemer Buzzy Botard	Cooper Kennemer Buzzy Botard	Bert Buegeler Austin Kennemer	Bert Buegeler Austin Kennemer	Bert Buegeler Austin Kennemer
<b>Acolytes</b>	Kaden Benson	Mallori Calvez	Logan Blanchard	Wiley Fox	Vera DeReese
<b>Lector</b>	Gracie Barrett	Bert Buegeler	Wolle Huff	Amy Calvez	Evelyn Hutchinson
<b>Greeters</b>	Jerri Schulte	Karen Zepeda	Melba Andersen	Laurie Buegeler	Karen Crawford
<b>Coffee Makers</b>	Ann Menking	Brandy Kennemer	Melba Andersen	Ann Menking	Laurie Buegeler
<b>Sound Tech</b>	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox
<b>Camera/Streaming Tech</b>	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer
<b>Presentation Tech</b>	Terry Cooper	Terry Cooper	Terry Cooper	Terry Cooper	Terry Cooper
<b>Deacons</b>	Allan Schulte 389-3860	Allan Schulte 389-3860	Darrell Kennemer 361-318-5758	Darrell Kennemer 361-318-5758	Darrell Kennemer 361-318-5758

<b>July</b>	<b><u>COMMUNION</u></b>	<b><u>CANDLES</u></b>	<b><u>FLOWERS</u></b>	<b><u>PARAMENTS</u></b>
<b>August</b>	Renee Brown Susie Yocum	Wolle Huff Melba Andersen	Brandy Kennemer Kandace Fox	Susie Yocum Susie Yocum

## Emergency Contact Numbers:

**Pastor:**

**President:**

Amy Koenning  
361-215-5007

# July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
10am Worship/HC 7pm Executive Comm Meeting	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 5pm Bulletin Info Due <b>7am Independence Day/Flags Out</b>					
10am Worship Service	5pm Bulletin Info Due <b>5pm Council Meeting Info Due</b>					
10am Worship/HC <b>12pm Council Meeting</b>	5pm Bulletin Info Due <b>5pm Newsletter Info Due</b>					
10am Worship Service	5pm Bulletin Info Due					
10am Worship/HC <b>12pm Potluck Luncheon</b>						Updated 2022-06-30, Tessie Colle, rev 6

# August 2022

	August 7, 2022	August 14, 2022	August 21, 2022	August 28, 2022
<b>Assisting Ministers</b>	Ann Menking	Mallori Calvez	Amy Koenning	Kloe Fox
<b>Minister</b>	Mary Jackson	Alicia Carlisle	Mary Jackson	OPEN
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Bert Buegeler Laurie Buegeler		Amy Calvez Kloe Fox	
<b>Ushers</b>	Bill Botard Austin Kennemer	Bill Botard Austin Kennemer	Buzzy Botard Bert Buegeler	Buzzy Botard Bert Buegeler
<b>Acolytes</b>	Logan Blanchard	Kloe Fox	Mallori Calvez	Kaden Benson
<b>Lector</b>	Karen Zepeda	Gracie Barrett	Evelyn Hutchinson	Susie Yocum
<b>Greeters</b>	Karen Zepeda	Susie Spaniel	Karen Crawford	Jerri Schulte
<b>Coffee Makers</b>	Jerri/Allan Schulte	Jimmie Shoup	Melba Andersen	Laurie Buegeler
<b>Sound Tech</b>	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox	Kandace Fox
<b>Camera/Streaming Tech</b>	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer	Brandy Kennemer
<b>Presentation Tech</b>	Cooper Kennemer	Cooper Kennemer	Cooper Kennemer	Cooper Kennemer
<b>Deacon</b>	Allan Schulte 389-3860	Allan Schulte 389-3860	Darrell Kennemer 361-318-5758	Darrell Kennemer 361-318-5758

<b>August</b>	<b><u>COMMUNION</u></b>	<b><u>CANDLES</u></b>	<b><u>FLOWERS</u></b>	<b><u>PARAMENTS</u></b>
<b>September</b>	Susie Yocum Renee Brown	Wolle Huff Melba Andersen	Kandace Fox Laurie Buegeler	Susie Yocum Susie Yocum

**Emergency Contact Numbers:**                      **Pastor:**                                      **President:** Amy Koenning  
361-215-5007

# August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5pm Bulletin Info Due	2	3	4	5	6
7 10am Worship/HC 7pm Executive Committee Mtng.	8 5pm Bulletin Info Due 5pm Council Meeting Info Due	9	10	11	12	13
14 10am Rally Day- Blessing of the Backpacks, Teachers & Staff 10am Worship Service	15 5pm Bulletin Info Due 5pm Newsletter Info Due	16	17 5:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study	18	19	20
21 10am Worship/HC 11:30am 2nd Qtr Congregation Mtg 12pm Council Meeting	22 5pm Bulletin Info Due 6pm Women's Bible Study	23	24 5:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study	25	26	27
28 10am Worship Service	29 5pm Bulletin Info Due	30	31 5:30pm Wednesday Night Bible Study			Updated by Tessie Colle, 2022-06-24, Rev 2